IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A document editing system for editing a document in a computer, comprising:

means for discriminating a specified plurality of document areas within an arbitrary area of the document and managing the specified plurality of document areas along with attributes assigned thereto;

means for managing generation and deletion of a tag pair in the document, said tag pair defining a document area and including a start tag ~~and~~ that identifies a start of the document area, an end tag that identifies an end of the document area, and a unique identifier which is attached to each start and end tag, wherein said unique identifier is ~~different from a unique identifier attached to each other~~ uniquely associated only with the document area defined by the tag pair; and

means for editing a character sequence provided in the document while information about the specified plurality of document areas within the document is retained or updated.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The document editing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said specified plurality of document areas comprise a plurality of types of document areas.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The document editing system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

means for linking at least one linked document to the specified plurality of document areas and passing information about the link to said means for discriminating and managing; and

first means for outputting the at least one linked document linked by said means for linking at least one linked document, by reference to information about the specified plurality of document areas.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The document editing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said specified plurality of document areas comprise a plurality of document areas specified within the entirety of the document or arbitrary portions thereof, and wherein said document editing system further comprises:

means for managing an arbitrary display format assigned to the specified plurality of document areas; and

second means for outputting the document in the arbitrary expression format.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The document editing system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

means for linking an arbitrary process to the specified plurality of document areas, wherein a trigger to execute the arbitrary process is set for the specified plurality of document areas, and information about the link to the arbitrary process is passed to said means for discriminating and managing; and

means for storing the link to the arbitrary process.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A method of preparing a tag information management table for editing a document, said method comprising the steps of:

determining whether or not an arbitrary character string within the document is selected;

acquiring a ~~tag information pieces, including a kind of~~ tag pair ~~assigned to~~ in the

document, said tag pair including a start tag and an end tag that define a document area ~~and,~~ a

position of ~~a~~ the start tag ~~and,~~ a position of ~~an~~ the end tag, and a unique tag ID attached to

the start tag and the end tag that is uniquely associated only with the document area defined

by the tag pair, if it is determined in said determining that the arbitrary character string is

selected, said start tag identifying a start of the document area and said end tag identifying the

end of the document area defined by the tag pair;

~~assigning a nonoverlapping unique tag ID to the tag information pieces acquired in~~

~~said acquiring step;~~ and

storing a link between the ~~nonoverlapping~~ unique tag ID and the tag ~~information~~

~~pieces~~ pair in the tag information management table.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A document editing system for editing a document in

a computer, comprising:

a tag management module including a tag setting module which sets a tag pair in the

document, said tag pair defining an arbitrary area in the document with a unique identifier,

said tag pair including a start tag with the unique identifier attached and located at a start

portion of ~~an~~ the arbitrary area in the document and an end tag with the unique identifier

attached and located at an end portion of the arbitrary area in the document, and said tag

setting module storing information on said start tag and said end tag, said unique identifier

being associated only with the arbitrary area in the document defined by the tag pair; and

a document management module which manages said start tag with the unique

identifier attached and said end tag with the unique identifier attached when preparing or

editing a character sequence in the document and which manages the entire document.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method of editing a document in a computer, comprising the steps of:

storing ~~information on~~ in the document a start tag <u>that identifies a start of an arbitrary area in the document</u> and an end tag <u>that identifies an end of the arbitrary area in the document</u>, wherein a unique identifier is attached to the start tag and the unique identifier is attached to the end tag<u>, said unique identifier being uniquely associated only with the arbitrary area in the document identified by the start tag and the end tag</u>;

~~setting said start tag and said end tag at a start portion and an end portion, respectively, of an arbitrary area in the document according to the information stored in said storing;~~ and

managing said start tag with the attached unique identifier and said end tag with the attached unique identifier when preparing or editing a character sequence in the document and managing the entire document.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A document editing system for editing a document in a computer, comprising:

a document area manager configured to discriminate a specified plurality of document areas within an arbitrary area of the document and configured to manage the specified plurality of document areas along with attributes assigned thereto;

a tag manager configured to manage generation and deletion of a tag pair <u>in each of the plural document areas, each of said tag pairs defining a document area in the specified plural document areas and</u> including a start tag <u>that identifies a start of the document area,</u> ~~and~~ an end tag <u>that identifies an end of the document area,</u> and a unique identifier which is

attached to each start and end tag, wherein said unique identifier is ~~different from a unique~~

~~identifier attached to each other~~ <u>uniquely associated only with the document area defined by</u>

<u>the</u> tag pair; and

a document editor configured to edit a character sequence provided in the document

while information about the specified plurality of document areas within the document is

retained or updated.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The document editing system as claimed in claim

10, wherein said specified plurality of document areas comprise a plurality of types of

document areas.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The document editing system as claimed in claim

10, further comprising:

a link manager configured to link at least one linked document to the specified

plurality of document areas and to pass information about the link to said document area

manager; and

a linked document output section configured to output the at least one linked

document linked by said link manager, by reference to information about the specified

plurality of document areas managed by said document area manager.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The document editing system as claimed in claim

10, wherein said specified plurality of document areas comprise a plurality of document areas

specified within the entirety of the document or arbitrary portions thereof, and wherein said

document editing system further comprises:

a display format manager configured to manage an arbitrary display format assigned to the specified plurality of document areas; and

a second document output section configured to output the document in the arbitrary expression format.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The document editing system as claimed in claim 10, further comprising:

a processing interface manager configured to link an arbitrary process to the specified plurality of document areas, wherein a trigger to execute the arbitrary process is set for the specified plurality of document areas, and information about the link to the arbitrary process is passed to said document area manager; and

a processing library configured to store the link to the arbitrary process.

Claim 15 (New): A computer program product storing computer program instructions which when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform the following steps:

determining whether or not an arbitrary character string within a document is selected;

acquiring a tag pair in the document, said tag pair including a start tag and an end tag that define a document area, a position of the start tag, a position of the end tag, and a unique tag ID attached to the start tag and the end tag that is uniquely associated only with the document area defined by the tag pair, if it is determined in said determining that the arbitrary character string is selected, said start tag identifying a start of the document area and said end tag identifying the end of the document area defined by the tag pair; and

storing a link between the unique tag ID and the tag pair in the tag information management table.

Claim 16 (New): The document editing system of Claim 1, wherein each start and end tag includes an attachment symbol, and said unique identifier is attached to each start tag and each end tag by the attachment symbol.

Claim 17 (New): The method of Claim 6, wherein each start and end tag includes an attachment symbol, and said unique identifier is attached to each start tag and each end tag by the attachment symbol.

Claim 18 (New): The document editing system of Claim 7, wherein each start and end tag includes an attachment symbol, and said unique identifier is attached to each start tag and each end tag by the attachment symbol.

Claim 19 (New): The method of Claim 8, wherein each start and end tag includes an attachment symbol, and said unique identifier is attached to each start tag and each end tag by the attachment symbol.

Claim 20 (New): The document editing system of Claim 10, wherein each start and end tag includes an attachment symbol, and said unique identifier is attached to each start tag and each end tag by the attachment symbol.

Claim 21 (New): The computer program product of Claim 15, wherein each start and end tag includes an attachment symbol, and said unique identifier is attached to each start tag and each end tag by the attachment symbol.